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SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER KY SPEAKS ON ELECTIONS

1. PRIME MINISTER KY MADE TWO PUBLIC APPEARANCES MORNING JUNE 28 AT WHICH HE SPOKE ON SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS. FIRST WAS "NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES," BRINGING TOGETHER PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY. CONGRESS IS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO INAUGURATE A "NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES," TO CONTRIBUTE TO "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL" REBUILDING OF NATION. IN OPENING SPEECHES DELEGATES CALLED FOR "POSITIVE SUPPORT" FOR FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

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2. IN HIS ADDRESS, KY RECALLED THAT 1965 PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE FIRST POST REVOLUTION STEP IN BUILDING OF DEMOCRACY. SINCE THEN, DESPITE DIFFICULTIES, MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. KY PRAISED PROVINCIAL COUNCILS WHICH, ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES NOT GIVEN ADEQUATE AUTHORITY, ARE INDISPENSABLE AS LINKS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE. HE ENCOURAGED THEM TO CONTINUE IN THAT IMPORTANT ROLE. KY THEN ASKED FOR SUPPORT OF COUNCILMEN IN BRINGING ABOUT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

3. KY THEN PROCEEDED TO DIEN HONG CONFERENCE HALL TO PRESIDE OVER OPENING CEREMONY OF NATIONAL SEMINAR ON PRESIDENTIAL AND SENATORIAL ELECTIONS. SEMINAR, WHICH 11 RUN FOR FOUR DAYS, HAS SAME CAST OF CHARACTERS AS MARCH 1966 NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE; E.G., CORPS DEPUTIES FOR ADMINISTRATION, PROVINCE CHIEFS, DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEFS FOR ADMINISTRATION, VIS CHIEFS

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AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CHIEFS. OPENING CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY CIVILIAN DIRECTORATE MEMBERS AND MINISTERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF PEOPLES-ARMY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS. JOINING KY AT SPEAKERS' TABLE WERE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN LUU VIEN, INFORMATION MINISTER MAJOR GENERAL NGUYEN BAO TRI, RD MINISTER MAJOR GENERAL NGUYEN DUC THANG, AND SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION NGUYEN VAN TUONG (TUONG WILL CHAIR WORKING SESSIONS OF SEMINAR).

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4. KY SPEECH WAS SHORT AND TO THE POINT. HE NOTED PROGRESS MADE DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, AND SAID THAT MOST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ITS EFFORT TO BUILD DEMOCRACY. SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THAT THEY WILL RESULT IN A STRONG AND POPULAR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. KY SAID THAT LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSURING SUCCESS OF ELECTIONS. THEIR TASK IS THREEFOLD: 1) TO EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE AND THUS INSURE A GOOD VOTER TURNOUT; 2) DRAWING ON THE EXPERIENCE OF CA ELECTION AND VILLAGE HAMLET ELECTIONS, TO ORGANIZE SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS EFFICIENTLY AND TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SECURITY; AND 3) ABOVE ALL, TO INSURE HONEST AND JUST ELECTIONS, PROTECTING THE VOTERS' RIGHT OF FREE CHOICE, AND RIGHT OF ALL CANDIDATES TO CAMPAIGN ON AN EQUAL BASIS.

5. KY IS SLATED TO SPEAK AGAIN AT CLOSING CEREMONY OF SEMINAR MORNING JULY 1. OPENING DAY AGENDA, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS OF IMPORTANCE OF ELECTIONS AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, WILL CONCLUDE WITH RECEPTION FOR PARTICIPANTS, GVN OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

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